

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The amendments proposed in this Response address the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph issues on pages 2-4 of the office action. Subject matter of cancelled claim 5 has been added to claim 1. No new matter has been added nor any new issues raised. Entry and allowance are requested.

Claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fischer (US 4,421,027) in view of Johne (GB 2 119 711 A).

Fischer relates to a printing unit in an offset machine having a damper unit (11) which could be arranged in different positions thereby transferring water to the plate cylinder of the blanket cylinder. The Fischer damping system may be filled with ink rather than water.

Johne relates to a unit that could be used as a coating unit and as a moistening unit. The printing unit comprises a wiper (12). Instead of the wiper (12), Johne teaches using a counter-rotating metering roller (13) (see page 1, lines 104-105). Johne's teaches that the wiper (12) and/or roller (13) is only for wiping off surplus moistening agent/ink (see page 2, lines 4-6).

Contrary to the Examiner's reading, Johne does not describe, teach, nor suggest a doctor blade system; and the wiper (12)/roller (13) is not, and cannot be, a doctor blade system. Therefore, the combined teachings of Fischer and Johne do not teach nor suggest the claimed invention with its unique doctor

blade system defined in all the claims.

That [the prior art] might incorporate elements which could be used in appellants' system does not render appellants' claims obvious when there is no suggestion of using these elements in substantially the same manner as appellants use them. In re Donovan, 184 USPQ 414, 421 (CCPA, 1975).

Fischer is relied on as teaching a unit for coating and moistening unit. However, contrary to the Examiner's holding, Fischer fails to teach that the printing unit comprises "a doctor blade used as a coating unit (11)." See, for example, column 1, lines 42-54 which provides no indication that the damping system comprises a doctor blade.

Nowhere in Fischer, there is any basis for a doctor blade used as a coating unit. Instead, Fischer clearly states in column 2, lines 25-50, that the damper 11 comprises a trough 12 of a damping liquid in which a doctor roller 13 dips. Accordingly, the examiner's assumption that Fischer teaches the use of a doctor blade is in error. Also, as conceded by the Examiner, Fischer does not teach the use of a doctor blade for coating and as a moistening unit.

The Examiner defines a doctor blade to be a structure which removes or meters ink, water or other coating material from/on a roller. Such an element is also known as a knife or wiper blade. In fact, such doctor blade in the form of a wiper is provided by Johne. Johne teaches a printing unit which comprises a doctor blade (12). However, Johne does not describe, teach, nor suggest

the claimed doctor blade system comprised in the claimed moistening unit which also supplies liquid, whether coating or water, which is transferred by the transfer roller to the blade cylinder/blanket cylinder, respectively.

The present claims uniquely define the use of a doctor blade system which is not taught nor suggested by the references. In the claimed invention coating or water is not be provided from a trough or the like as taught by Fischer and Johne. Instead, this coating or water is provided from the doctor blade system. This is different from the teaching of Johne and also different from the teaching of Fischer. Likewise, it is different from the combined teachings of Johne and Fischer.

Seeing that neither Johne nor Fischer in any place make any suggestion for the skilled person to replace the trough and the cooperating doctor roller with any other means, it would not be obvious for a person skilled in the art to combine the teachings. Furthermore, even if one would combine the teachings of Johne and Fischer, then such combination would not arrive at the unique solution provided in the present claims in which a doctor blade system is incorporated from which coating of water is transferred to the blade cylinder or blanket cylinder.

As uniquely provided in the present invention, the doctor blade system supplies the coating and/or the water. The transfer roller is used for "transferring coating or water from the doctor blade system". This is novel and contrary to the Fischer and Johne teachings which must provide coating or water from a

trough. Thus, the references lead away from the present invention.

Citing In re Gordon, 221 USPQ, 1127, the court pointed out, "the mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification". In re Fritch, 23 USPQ2d 1783, 1784 (CAFC, August 1992).

The Fischer and Johne teachings would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the wiping means, e.g. wiper blade or counter roller, in an arrangement that counteracts with the doctor (1) which should be in constant contact with a moistening agent/ink in a box (2) (see Johne, page 1, lines 95-98). Johne is totally silent on the wiper mechanism being replaceable with a doctor blade system comprising a chamber from which coating or water is transferred to the blanket and plate cylinders.

"It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or 'template' to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious." In re Fritch, 23 USPQ2d 1783, 1784 (CAFC, August 1992), quoting from In re Gorman, 18 USPQ2d 1885, 1888 (Fed. Cir. 1991). "This court has previously stated that one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention." Id. quoting from In re Fine, 5 USPQ2d 1600 (CAFC, 1988).

Because Fischer and Johne do not teach nor suggest the

claimed invention, claim 1 is, as well as all the dependent claims are, patentable over the references.

Claim 2 is patentable over Fischer, Johne, and Stapleford (GB 1 138 055).

As pointed out above, Fischer and Johne do not teach nor suggest the claimed invention. Therefore any further combination with other references will also lead away from the present claims.

Stapleford, with or without Fischer and Johne, does not teach nor suggest that the displacement is a pivoting about an axis in parallel with the rotational axis of the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder. Nothing in the combined teachings of all the references provides the uniquely claimed doctor blade system that transfers the coating and/or water to the blanket and/or plate cylinders.

Claims 3, 5, and 7-9 are patentable over Fischer, Johne and Kiyoshi (JP 59209875).

As pointed out above, Fischer and Johne do not teach nor suggest the claimed invention. Therefore any further combination with other references will also lead away from the present claims.

Kiyoshi may enable the bringing of the transfer roller in contact with the plate cylinder, but nothing in the combined teachings of all the references provides the uniquely claimed doctor blade system that transfers the coating and/or water to the blanket and/or plate cylinders.

Johne teaches nothing but a wiper (12), with a structure which removes or meters ink, water or other coating material from/on a roller in accordance with the explanation given by the examiner. However, Johne does not teach the use of a blade system from which the coating of water is transferred to the blade cylinder or blanket cylinder. As indicated in the explanation given by the examiner in paragraph 3, a wiper (doctor blade) as taught by Johne is not able to contain coating of water. Thus, the invention defined in the claims is novel, unique and patentable over the combined teachings of Fischer, Johne and Kiyoshi.

The invention is a doctor blade system, for example, the doctor blade system 30 in Figure 3 and corresponding description, which defines over the wiper or doctor blade of Johne. The claimed doctor blade system comprises a chamber, and the coating of water which is transferred from the doctor blade system would come from such chamber.

It is impermissible to use an applicant's claim as a springboard for hunting through the prior art for the claimed elements and for combining the found elements as claimed in the application. In re Vaeck, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Claim 4 is patentable over Fischer, Johne, Kiyoshi and Schutz (GB 2 327 196 A).

As pointed out above, Fischer and Johne do not teach nor suggest the claimed invention. Therefore any further combination with other references will also lead away from the present

claims. Kiyoshi may enable the bringing of the transfer roller in contact with the plate cylinder. Schutz does not teach nor suggest the claimed invention.

Nothing in the combined teachings of all the references provides the uniquely claimed doctor blade system that transfers the coating and/or water to the blanket and/or plate cylinders.

Claim 6 is patentable over Fischer, Johne, Kiyoshi, and Stapleford.

As pointed out above, Fischer, Johne and Stapleford do not teach nor suggest the claimed invention. Therefore any further combination with Stapleford will also lead away from the present claims.

Claim 11 is patentable over Fischer, Johne, and Aylor (US Patent 4,741,269).

As pointed out above, Fischer and Johne do not teach nor suggest the claimed invention. Therefore any further combination with Aylor will also lead away from the present claims.

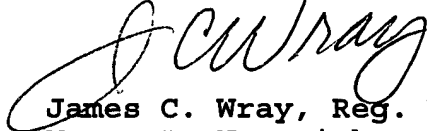
Nothing in the references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed features. Therefore, the references cannot anticipate nor render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Since Applicant has presented a novel, unique and non-obvious invention, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests an Interview with Examiner Leo Hinze to resolve any issues that may remain. A call from the

Examiner to set up a mutually convenient Interview date/time will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JC Wray", written over the typed name.

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